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Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial information management community can actively contribute to the effective coordination of geospatial activities within the United Nations system.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/112, in which it welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information and requested the Secretariat to continue its analysis of the United Nations system-wide consultation. A questionnaire has been circulated in order to provide a systematic overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system and to enable the Secretariat to report on specific evidence and results to the Committee at its seventh session.

In its report, the Secretariat provides an overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements within the United Nations system. As noted during the sixth session of the Committee of Experts, since many coordination activities were being carried out on a "best efforts" basis by geospatial practitioners, the current informal collaborative mechanisms required attention by senior management of the United Nations and by the Committee of Experts. The analysis presented provides a basis for including, within the Committee's framework, its consideration of a formal mechanism for geospatial information management activities conducted by the United Nations system.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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